IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A computer based method for automatically determining taxes for a contract for equipment, including the steps of:

establishing a set of contract characteristics;

establishing customer location information;

automatically determining an appropriate set of tax rules to apply as a function of the customer location information;

determining a contract type based on the contract characteristics under the set of tax rules; and,

calculating a tax amount based on the contract characteristics, the contract type, and the set of tax rules.

2. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the contract type is one of a lease and a financing contract.

3. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the contract type is one of an operating lease, a true lease, a finance option lease, a finance lease purchase with mandatory final payment, a government lease purchase and an installment sale.

4. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the set of tax rules include state and local tax rules.

5. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 4, wherein the set of state and local tax rules include special state and/or local rulings.

6. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 5, wherein the special state and/or local rulings are a function of a power output of the equipment.

7. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 5, wherein the special state and local tax rules are a function of the equipment.

8. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, further including the step of determining a paying party who will pay the tax amount as a function of the set of tax rules.

9. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 8, wherein the paying party is one of a dealer, a financing company and a customer.

10. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of determining how the tax amount is to be paid.

11. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 10, wherein the tax amount is to be paid up front or in a series of payments.

12. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the set of tax rules includes maximum tax and double tax rules.

13. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of automatically generating an invoice for the tax amount.

14. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the contract characteristics include a product family and a model number for the equipment.

15. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the tax amount includes at least one of a sales tax, a use tax, a rental tax, a maximum tax value and a personal property tax.

16. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the user customer location information includes a zip code.

17. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the set of contract characteristics includes a residual amount due at end of contract.

18. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the set of contract characteristics includes a purchase price of the equipment.

19. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the set of contract characteristics includes a type of purchase option.

20. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the type of purchase option is one of fair market value, CMV, a bargained price, and none.

21. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the set of contract characteristics include a mandatory final payment.

22. (original) A computer based method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the set of contract characteristics include a trade-in.

23. (original) A computer based method for automatically determining taxes for a contract for equipment, including the steps of:

establishing a set of contract characteristics;

establishing customer location information;

automatically determining an appropriate set of tax rules to apply as a function of the customer location information;

determining a contract type based on the contract characteristics under the set of tax rules;

calculating a tax amount based on the contract characteristics, the contract type, and the set of tax rules; and,

generating an invoice for the tax amount.

Claims 24 - 47 (withdrawn)